

## Report of Campaign Against Major General Sterling Price, in October and November, 1864 (pt. 6)

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ISSN 0003-4827

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### Recommended Citation

The Annals of Iowa, 10(3) (Jul. 1872): 207-226

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## REPORT OF CAMPAIGN AGAINST MAJOR GENERAL STERLING PRICE, IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, 1864.

[Continued from page 631, No. 3, Vol. IX., July, 1871.]

### Attack on Fayetteville.

CAMPING in mud, rain, and snow, at dark on the evening of the 3d, at Cross Hollows, I was nearly overcome with fatigue, illness, and the perplexing orders which I have mentioned.

My troops had built fires in the woods and began to enjoy themselves, when, about midnight, messengers arrived from Fayetteville informing me of Price's attack of that post, and Col. Harrison's successful holding against fearful odds, and his earnest desire for help.

This post, 18 miles in my advance, was commanded by Col. M. La Rue Harrison, of the 1st Arkansas Cavalry, with about 1,100 militia and volunteers, constituting the garrison. Substantial earth works had been erected, and although far from supporting forces, it had for several weeks, especially during the previous ten days, been in a state of siege, and the troops were on half rations.

Price's main forces halted at Cane Hill, sending General Fagin, with 8,000 men and two pieces of artillery, to take the forces and supplies of Col. Harrison. Their operations commenced on the 3d, and after investing the town, they cannonaded the Fort for several hours with very little effect. The storm, timidity of the rebels, and the gallant bearing of the garrison, prevented a charge on the works, which the rebel officers tried to make, but with the close of the day they withdrew and went into camp around the town.

I had sent a small party which had got into the Fort during the night. Meantime Col. Harrison's messengers reached me at Cross Hollows about midnight. As soon as my troops could be fed and collected I hurried forward with

my little force, determined to make the best showing I could for the benefit of the garrison. The enemy not knowing my force, but doubtless supposing I was coming with all my former numbers, made a hasty retreat during the night, his rear guard leaving as my advance arrived, about 11 o'clock, Nov. 4th.

A portion of the rebel troops separating from Price's main force, went eastward, under Freeman, following down the White river, leaving their broken guns in disgust, and probably disbanding near Huntsville. The main force, however, moved rapidly back to Cane Hill, and joined Price's main army, which was collecting cattle and other supplies at that place.

The accompanying report of Col. Harrison is interesting, giving an account of his perilous position and gallant deportment for some time before my forces came to his relief.

I sent the following dispatch:

"FAYETTEVILLE, Friday, Nov. 4, 1864, 12 M.

"MAJ. GEN. HALLECK:

"Price's forces attacked and shelled this place, but retreated at the approach of my command. Col. Harrison reports his loss as trifling. He will join me in pursuit as you direct. The enemy lost several, including one officer. He has divided, but seems to aim at a crossing of the Arkansas, above Fort Smith.

"S. R. CURTIS, *Maj. Gen'l.*"

I sent a similar telegram to General Rosecrans, and forwarded another lot of prisoners to him in charge of Lieut. Quinby.

Continuance of the Pursuit below Fayetteville, Arkansas.

The broken lines of the enemy at Fayetteville made it difficult to ascertain the route of Price's main force, and detained me nearly a day.

During this delay, and pursuant to your directions, I ordered Col. Harrison to join me with a portion of his force, leaving Captain Dodge's Battery, which was nearly broken

down, and the remainder of the garrison, sufficient, in my judgment, for the safety of the place, while we continued to press Price's general movement beyond.

Giving Col. Harrison the advance, we moved forward on the 5th, our force now amounting to about 3,500. During the day I received a note from General Sanborn, dated the 4th, at Cassville, explaining the order of the previous day to Col. Benteen as not being his "design to withdraw him from the face of the enemy, or from your support, but expecting him to be near Cassville, where I was expecting to be in person to-day.

"He will remain with you if Price is still in your front. My information is that his army has gone into the Nation. I will have positive knowledge in a day or two. General McNeil's brigade is a few miles in the rear, and will come forward at once, if there is any prospect of meeting the enemy.

"I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

"Your obedient servant,

"JNO. B. SANBORN,

"*Brig. Gen'l, Com'd'g.*"

This showed me clearly that no other reinforcements were within supporting distance, and my boldness of pursuit must compensate for want of numbers, judging rightly that the enemy would not, in his flight, ascertain the relation of my troops to those in my rear.

Crossing the Illinois river, I camped for the night at Prairie Grove battle ground. During the day we found plenty of cattle, which now became the only food for most of my troops. Very little forage for horses could be obtained, and the country beyond was still more destitute.

We left Prairie Grove at daylight on the 6th, driving scattering rebels out of Cane Hill, and taking and paroling a large number of sick and broken down rebel prisoners. Price had secured supplies of cattle at this place, and his troops had commenced erecting huts, with the evident sup-

position that he would remain some time. Col. Benteen's scouts attacked and killed some of the enemy's scouts, or rear guard, killing two or three, and capturing the old flag of Gen. Blunt's escort, which the rebels took at the massacre of Baxter Springs. Benteen lost two or three in this skirmish. We went into camp about 5 o'clock, P. M., near the ground occupied by Price's forces the previous night.

Nov. 6th we made an early start, following the well marked trail of Price's army. His camp fires extended for miles, and I counted over a hundred heads of cattle that had been slaughtered and the meat distributed among his troops. We pressed forward during the day and most of the night, when we ascertained the enemy had departed westward from the line road, taking the valley of a beautiful little stream called the Salisas, which bears south-west through a portion of the Cherokee Nation. Halting and grazing our horses on cane and coarse grass, which we found on the valley of this stream. We were evidently close on the enemy's rear, and my order of march for the 7th was carefully arranged for battle. Col. Benteen in advance, Gen. Blunt's division following next, Col. Harrison's force followed this division, and Major Ketner, 16th Kansas Cavalry, commanded escort, and all that appertained to the Commissary train.

Nov. 7th, we started at daylight, our route leading through the woods and on bye-roads, in a south-west direction. Horses, wagons, and property stolen from Missouri marked the way, which we followed until late at night, and remained until the morning.

Among other articles, a carriage, said to be the one occupied by Price himself, was passed on the way side, and everything showed a hasty and terrified retreat. Our curiosity, usual on such occasions, hurried the advance forward, hoping to overtake the enemy. About dark we came upon a cannon which he had left in the road, and after a few miles more darkness and a necessity to close up my forces induced another halt.

We had very little chance to feed ourselves or horses, and resumed the march early on the 8th, uncertain of our whereabouts, but confident of the enemy's near presence, as the prairie was still burning, and his broken down mules, horses, and baggage, were again broadcast over his well defined way. Col. Harrison now had the advance, and pushed forward with great vigor to the timber far in our advance, which proved to be the timber skirting the Arkansas river. A few of the rebel rear guard were driven beyond the stream, and bringing up McLain's battery we shelled the timber on the south side. Some of our troops crossed over and exchanged a few shots as they supposed with the last of Price's army.

Our work was accomplished, and the shout that went up from the "Army of the Border," and the roar of our cannon, resounded through the gloomy forests of the Arkansas, carrying to the camp of the starving enemy beyond our parting farewell.

This crossing, selected by Standwaitie's Indians, is a little above the mouth of the Salisas, about twenty-five miles above Fort Smith.

A prisoner taken by the enemy, who had escaped or been discharged, a Reverend, and perfectly reliable gentleman, gave the particulars of the enemy's condition. His troops were so destitute of provisions, an officer being begged by a soldier for an ear of corn, was told he had not a grain to give him. The elm trees, for miles, had been stripped to furnish food for the starving multitude.

An officer of the rebel army, whom we paroled at Cane Hill, said that at Lexington Price's force was thirty-seven thousand, but now he thought they had lost in killed, wounded, and missing, from eight to ten thousand. All my information was to the effect that the enemy was over twenty thousand strong, but many of his troops were volunteers and conscripts picked up by the way, and were only partially armed.

The reports of my militia forces are so imperfect, and

those of others also, I cannot give any correct idea of my own losses, either at each battle or in the aggregate.

I was obliged to immediately separate my troops and start them homeward in different columns, so as to collect scattering cattle, and the best grass, to save our men and horses from greater suffering. The reports of my subordinates and that of my Medical Director in the field, show that our killed, wounded, and prisoners, during the campaign, may have reached 1,800 or 2,000.

We nowhere stopped to bury our dead or take care of the wounded, feeling confident we left them with their friends, where their wives, mothers, and sisters could safely render them the kind offices so justly due to those who fell in this struggle for their homes and their country.

Before separating from the gallant 3,500 that had accompanied me from the Missouri to the Arkansas, and from Newtonia, a distance of two hundred miles, been my only comrades in this eventful pursuit, I issued the following congratulatory order, a copy of which I sent you as soon as possible after my return to the settlements.

“HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE BORDER, }  
CAMP ARKANSAS, Nov. 8th, 1864. } ”

GENERAL FIELD ORDER.

The object of this organization and campaign is accomplished. The rebel army under Gen. Sterling Price has been confronted, beaten in several conflicts, pursued and driven over three hundred and fifty miles, from the Missouri to the Arkansas.

This has been the work of fourteen days. Your marches have been incessant, sometimes for days and nights, in rain and snow, and generally on short rations, gathered from the herds lost by the enemy.

Your privations, toils, and gallantry, deserve the highest commendation, and the success of the campaign in which you have so gloriously participated, most of you from the beginning to the end, must entitle you to the thanks of

your government, and the gratitude of the loyal people of our country. Your losses are considerable, but nothing in comparison with those of the enemy, who admits of a loss in killed, wounded, and missing, of eight or ten thousand. All his cannon, too, a large portion of his small arms, his vast wagon train, loaded with spoils, and herds of cattle and horses, have been left, burned, and scattered in the way of your pursuit.

His army of twenty or thirty thousand is converted into an unarmed, disorganized mob, destitute of everything, starving with hunger, and far from supplies. Their condition is indeed so desperate as to excite pity rather than exultation.

But the greatest achievement of the campaign is the driving of a desperate class of vagrant associates of rebels so far from your homes and the states you defend. Besides this, your stern resistance and close pursuit saved the towns and garrisons of Kansas City, Olathe, Paola, Fort Scott, Fayetteville, Fort Smith, and Fort Gibson, and the valuable public stores of those places; besides checking ulterior purposes of slaughter and desolation contemplated by the invasion of Kansas. But it would tarnish the brilliancy of your achievements to claim this for yourselves alone, without acknowledging with gratitude the share borne in the brunt of the contest by the troops of Missouri and the militia of Kansas, who shared our dangers, and because of their greater numbers, especially deserve more of the honors due to the conflicts of the 24th, 25th, and 28th of October.

But to you, including the brigade of Col. Benteen, who have shared in most of these battles, and continued throughout the long, weary pursuit to the dark and turbid waters of the Arkansas, where your guns thundered in the rear of the starving, terrified enemy, must be accorded the special commendation of the Commanding General, and the generous approval of your country.

The special honors due to distinguished comrades in this campaign will be carefully presented by the Commanding



General in his proper report to Headquarters at Washington; and to secure the most exact justice to so many deserving commendation, Commanders of Divisions, Brigades, Detachments, and Staff Officers, will make full reports, directed to Headquarters, Fort Leavenworth, at their earliest convenience.

In parting, the General tenders to the officers and soldiers, for their generous support and prompt obedience to orders, and to his Staff, for their unceasing efforts to share the toil incident to the campaign, his heartfelt thanks.

The pursuit of Price in 1864, and the battles of Lexington, Little Blue, Big Blue, Westport, Marias-des-Cygnès, Osage, Charlot, and Newtonia, will be borne on the banners of the regiments who shared in them, and the states of Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Arkansas, may glory in the achievements of their sons in this short but eventful campaign.

The First Division, commanded by Gen. Blunt, will move from the camp according to special instructions.

The Brigade of Col. Benteen will return to his proper corps command, by such route as he may consider most economical and advantageous to the government.

Col. Harrison will report to Gen. Steele at his earliest convenience.

Col. Ford, with his command, will accompany the Commanding General to his Headquarters, Fort Leavenworth.

By command of

MAJOR GENERAL CURTIS.

C. S. CHARLOT, *Ass't Adj't Gen'l.*"

#### Return from the Pursuit of Price.

As directed in your dispatch of the 28th of October, Price had been pursued beyond the Arkansas, carrying away with him the murderers, marauders, and bushwhackers that infested Missouri, Arkansas, and Kansas.

He entered Missouri feasting and furnishing his troops on the rich products and abundant spoils of the Missouri

valley, but crossed the Arkansas destitute, disarmed, disorganized, and avoiding starvation by eating raw corn and slippery elm bark.

Having thus disposed of our foes, my forces being separated, made their way in several lines, scouring the country for cattle and hogs, their only means of subsistence. The grass also being entirely killed by the frost, afforded poor sustenance for horses, and rendered it necessary for us to walk much of the way, and make short marches, until we reached the vicinity of Fort Scott, where I arrived on the 15th, and taking more rapid conveyance reached my Headquarters, Fort Leavenworth, on the 18th of November.

I here received your dispatch of the 7th, which is as follows:

“WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 7th, 1864.

MAJOR GEN'L CURTIS:

In the Field:

The Secretary of War directs that you assume command of all the troops belonging to the Department of Missouri, and now serving on the west border of that State, and pursue Price towards the Arkansas river, or till he reaches the troops of Gen. Steele or Gen. Reynolds.

Having completed this duty you will return the troops to their respective commands.

You will furnish a copy of this order to the several commanders, and also to Gen. Rosecrans.

Regiments, or fractions of regiments, belonging to Department of Arkansas will be sent to Gen. Steele.

H. W. HALLECK, *Chief of Staff.*”

This order, as you perceive was issued at Washington the day before I reached the Arkansas river, and far from mails and telegraphic communication, yet seems to cover all my orders and movements, down to my order of the 8th, distributing the troops that had shared in the final pursuit. Thus terminated my last campaign against the rebel Gen. Price, in 38 days.

The distance traveled, going and returning, including the various marches and countermarches of Headquarters of the "Army of the Border," is about eight hundred and fifty miles.

In conclusion, although I have specially commended most of my comrades who ought to be prominently named, yet I here again present the Roll of Honor, which I hope may be transmitted to posterity, and ask for the generous sympathy of their countrymen, and from their government the advancement due to those who have gained victories, conquered armies, saved cities, and increased the great aggregate of glorious achievements which are crushing the rebellion.

#### ROLL OF HONOR.

Major General James G. Blunt, U. S. V.

" " Alfred Pleasanton, U. S. V.

" " Geo. W. Deitzler, Kansas State Militia.

Brigadier General John McNeil, U. S. V.

" " John B. Sanborn, U. S. V.

" " W. H. M. Fishback, Kansas State Militia.

Colonel James H. Ford, 2d Colorado Cavalry Volunteers.

" Charles R. Jennison, 15th Kansas Cavalry Volunteers.

" Charles W. Blair, 14th " " "

" Thomas Moonlight, 11th " " "

" M. LaRue Harrison, 1st Arkansas Cavalry Volunteers.

" George A. Veal, 2d Kansas State Militia.

" G. A. Colton, 5th Kansas State Militia.

" James Montgomery, 6th Kansas State Militia.

" Wm. D. McCain, 4th Kansas State Militia.

" Wm. Pennock, 10th Kansas State Militia.

" L. S. Treat, 12th Kansas State Militia.

" A. C. Hogan, 19th Kansas State Militia.

" Sandy Lowe, 21st Kansas State Militia.

Lieutenant Colonel F. W. Benteen, 10th Missouri Vol. Cavalry.

" " George H. Hoyt, 15th Kansas Vol. Cavalry.

" " Samuel Walker, 16th " " "

Major J. Nelson Smith, 2d Colorado Cavalry (killed).

" James Ketner, 16th Kansas Volunteer Cavalry.

" Martin Anderson, 11th Kansas Volunteer Cavalry.

" I. L. Prichard, 2d Colorado Cavalry.

" E. G. Ross, 11th Kansas Vol. Cavalry.

" Henry Hopkins, 2d Kansas Vol. Cavalry.

Major A. W. Pearce, commanding 4th Iowa, and wounded at battle of Osage.

Captain G. L. Gove, Co. "G," 11th Kansas Vol. Cavalry (who commanded my body guard in early part of campaign, and died from effects of exposure).

" P. Cosegrove, Co. "G," 2d Kansas Vol. Cavalry.

Lieutenant Gill, Co. "G," 11th Kansas Vol. Cavalry, who commanded a battery of howitzers attached to my escort.

Sergeant Shoenacker (same Company, who served with these guns).

I desire to specially mention my own regular Staff, for gallant services in almost every field.

Major T. J. Weed, A. D., A. D. C.

" T. J. McKenny, A. D. C. and Inspector General.

" C. S. Charlot, Assistant Adjutant General.

" S. S. Curtis, 2d Colorado Vol. Cavalry, and A. D. C.

" R. H. Hunt, 15th Kansas Vol. Cavalry, and Chief of Artillery.

Captain E. J. Meeker, Chief Signal Officer.

Lieutenant G. T. Robinson, Chief Engineer.

" C. M. Roberts, Signal Officer.

" J. R. Fitch, Staff and Acting Chief Quartermaster.

My Volunteer Staff were all active in the field and elsewhere.

Hon. James H. Lane, A. A. D. C.

" S. C. Pomeroy, A. A. D. C.

Colonel W. P. Cloud, 2d Kansas Vol. Cavalry, A. A. D. C.

" John Ritchie, 1st Regiment Indiana H. G., A. A. D. C.

" Samuel J. Crawford, 1st Regiment Kansas Colored, A. A. D. C.

" W. T. Roberts (formerly of 1st Kansas), A. A. D. C.

Lieutenant Colonel J. B. Wheeler, 13th Kansas Vol. Infantry, Acting Field Officer.

" " J. J. Sears, 18th U. S. C. T., Acting Provost Marshal of the Army of the Border.

Among others should be mentioned with honor:

Surgeon S. B. Davis, Medical Director of the Army of the Border.

" Philip Harvey.

" J. J. Pollock, 2d Colorado Vol. Cavalry.

Assistant Surgeons Vance and Aiken, 2d Colorado Vol. Cavalry.

Captain W. D. McLain, Independent Battery Colorado Volunteers.

Lieutenant G. A. Eayres, Independent Battery Colorado Volunteers.

" Beach, Independent Battery Colorado Volunteers.

Captain J. H. Dodge, 9th Battery Wisconsin Volunteers.

Lieutenant Hicks, 9th Battery Wisconsin Volunteers.

" W. H. Price, 2d Col. Vols., Acting Ordnance Officer in the field.

Major General Blunt, in his report, honorably mentions the names of those on his regular and volunteer Staff:—

Captain George S. Hampton, Assistant Adjutant General.

“ R. J. Hinton, 2d Kansas Colored, and A. D. C.

“ B. F. Simpson, Acting A. Q. M.

“ George J. Clark, 14th Kansas Vol. Cavalry, Acting Ordnance Officer.

Lieut. Colonel John T. Burris (late of 10th K. V. C.), Vol. A. D. C.

Major R. G. Ward, 1st Kansas Colored Volunteers, Vol. A. D. C.

“ J. T. Penny (late of 35th Missouri Vols.), Vol. A. D. C.

Captain A. J. Shannon, Dist. Provost Marshal, and Acting Division Provost Marshal.

“ T. E. Milhoan (late 10th Kansas), A. A. D. C.

Second Lieutenant W. B. Clark, Company “E,” 14th K. V. C., commanding escort.

I also present the names of—

Captain Carpenter, commanding Battalion 3d Wisconsin Cavalry.

Lieutenant J. B. Pond, commanding Battalion 3d Wisconsin Cavalry.

“ John Crites, Company “D,” 3d Wisconsin Cavalry.

“ Joseph Mackle, 15th Kansas Vol. Cavalry, Acting A. A. G.

“ W. H. Bisbee, 11th Kansas Vol. Cavalry, Regimental Adj.

Captain Young, 5th Kansas Vol. Cavalry.

Lieutenant Taber, 11th Kansas Vol. Cavalry, Acting A. A. G.

“ Goble, Company “L,” 5th Kansas Vol. Cavalry.

Surgeon Ainsworth, and Assistant Surgeon Adair, 11th Kansas Vol. Cavalry; Sergeant Major J. H. Isbell; Q. M. Sergeant W. H. Cowan, and Chief Bugler N. D. Horton, 11th Kansas Vol. Cavalry, for gallantry in the field, are deserving promotion.

Lieut. Colonel Morris, 10th Kansas State Militia.

“ “ Ewes, 24th Kansas State Militia.

Major Smith, 19th Kansas State Militia.

“ Wiley, 10th Kansas State Militia.

“ C. C. Willets, Volunteer Aid to Col. Blair.

Lieutenant L. J. Beam, 15th Kansas Vol. Cavalry, A. A. A. Gen'l.

“ James Adkins, 24th Kansas State Militia (severely wounded at Westport).

Sergeant Major Ripston, 3d Wisconsin Vol. Cavalry.

Sergeant A. C. Green, 3d Wisconsin Vol. Cavalry.

Private Van Valkenburg, 3d Wisconsin Vol. Cavalry.

Captain W. H. Green, 2d Colorado Vol. Cavalry.

Lieutenant R. Roe, 2d Colorado Vol. Cavalry, A. A. A. G.

“ Wm. Wise, 2d Colorado Vol. Cavalry.

“ Fenton Seymour, 2d Colorado Vol. Cavalry (who was wounded at Little Blue).

Captain Kingsbury, 2d Colorado Vol. Cavalry.

" Elmer, 2d Colorado Vol. Cavalry.

" Boyd, 2d Colorado Vol. Cavalry.

Sergeant Samuel Ferre, Company "C," 2d Colorado Cavalry, gallantry at Newtonia.

Captain Thomas Moses, Company "C," 2d Colorado Cavalry, wounded at Newtonia.

All the names thus presented deserve honorable mention for uniform gallantry and energy.

I must also include some reluctantly left in my rear to attend to my support of men and means, and for earnest and successful exertions, therefore deserving this presentation:—

Brigadier General Thos. H. Davis, commanding Dist. of North Kansas.

Colonel Werter R. Davis, commanding Post at Fort Leavenworth.

" Coates, E. M. M., Kansas City, Missouri.

Major F. E. Hunt, Chief Paymaster, in command of Artillery at the Post and City of Leavenworth.

" H. H. Heath, Provost Marshal General.

" E. S. Hubbard, K. S. M., commanding at Wyandotte.

Surgeon Buckmaster, Medical Director of the Department.

Captain John Williams, A. A. G., Headquarters Fort Leavenworth.

" H. C. Hodges, Department Q. M. Fort Leavenworth.

" John McNutt, Chief of Ordnance, Fort Leavenworth.

" Robert Graham, Depot Commissary, Fort Leavenworth.

" Edgar Seelye, Depot Q. M. at Kansas City, and until after the battle of Westport A. C. Q. M. of the Army.

I name also as deserving honorable mention for active exertions in protecting the border, the Post of Paola and town of Mound City, and for gallantry on the march and at the latter place on the night of the 24th, and morning of the 25th of October, the names of—

Colonel Thomas Moonlight, 11th Kansas Vol. Cavalry, commanding Brigade.

Lieut. Colonel Samuel F. Drake, 17th Kansas Vol. Cavalry (one hundred day men).

Captain S. W. Greer, 15th Kansas Vol. Cavalry, commanding Mound City.

" Parks, Kansas State Militia, wounded at Mound City.

Also, Privates Williams and Manlove, Kansas State Militia (the latter being killed at Mound City).

Distances Traveled by the Army of the Border,  
From Fort Leavenworth:

		MILES,
October	13. Olathe .....	28
	14. Wyandotte, via Shawne.....	29
	15. Hickman's Mill and return.....	48
	17. Kansas City .....	4
	19. Independence .....	12
	21. Little Blue .....	9
	Big Blue .....	15
	22. Kansas City .....	6
	23. Little Santa Fe.....	15
	24. Marias-des-Cygnés.....	56
	25. Fort Scott .....	36
	26. Shanghai.....	27
	27. Carthage .....	42
	28. Newtonia .....	30
	29. Neosho.....	10
	30. Back to Newtonia.....	10
	31. Keatsville .....	27
November	1. Pea Ridge.....	10
	3. Cross Hollow .....	15
	4. Fayetteville .....	20
	5. Prairie Grove.....	11
	6. Cane Hill.....	25
	7. ....	30
	8. ....	12
	Back again.....	320
	Total miles traveled .....	847

I have the honor to be, General,

Your obedient servant,

S. R. CURTIS, <sup>✓</sup>*Major Gen'l.*

Report of Major General James G. Blunt, Commanding District of  
South Kansas.

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF SOUTH KANSAS, }  
PAOLA, December 24th, 1864. }

MAJOR C. S. CHARLOT, *Asst. Adj. Gen'l.*,

Department of Kansas:

For the information of the Major General commanding the Department, I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by the first division of the Army

of the Border, in the recent campaign against the rebel army under command of General Sterling Price.

On my arrival at Fort Leavenworth, from the District of upper Arkansas, on the 9th of October, I was directed to proceed to Olathe, and report from that place by telegraph for orders.

Arriving there on the morning of the 10th I was assigned, by orders from Department Headquarters, to the command of the District of South Kansas, to relieve Major General Sykes, and immediately assumed command by telegraph, with headquarters at Paola, and in the field, and proceeded at once to put the small force in my district in condition for active service.

At one o'clock A. M. of the 13th I received a telegram from the General commanding to move, with all my mounted force and artillery, to Hickman's Mill, Missouri.

At daylight I marched, with all my force immediately at hand, consisting of the 11th Kansas Volunteer Cavalry; detachments of the 5th and 16th Kansas Volunteer Cavalry; 1st Colorado Battery, and a portion of the 5th and 10th regiments of Kansas State Militia (mounted), and arrived at Hickman's Mill at 11 o'clock A. M. of the 14th. On the following day (the 15th of October), the 15th Kansas; Battallion of 3d Wisconsin Cavalry, detachment of 14th Kansas; 6th regiment Kansas State Militia, and right section of 2d Kansas Battery, under the command of Colonels Jennison and Blair, who had been directed to join me by forced marches, reported to me in camp at Hickman's Mill. The force was then organized as follows: 1st Brigade, commanded by Col. C. R. Jennison, 15th Kansas Cavalry, consisting of the 15th Kansas Cavalry, Battalion of 3d Wisconsin Cavalry, and four 12 pound mountain howitzers; 2d Brigade, commanded by Colonel Thomas Moonlight, 11th Kansas Volunteer Cavalry, to consist of the 11th Kansas Cavalry, detachments of the 5th and 16th Kansas Cavalry, and four 12 pound mountain howitzers. The 3d Brigade, commanded by Colonel C. W. Blair, 14th Kansas Vol-



unteer Cavalry, comprising the 5th, 6th, and 10th regiments Kansas State Militia, 1st Colorado Battery, and right section of 2d Kansas Battery, and detachment of 14th Kansas Volunteer Cavalry, Brigadier General Fishback to have immediate command of the State Militia, reporting to Col. Blair.

Early on the morning of the 16th, Gen. Fishback, of the State Militia, and Col. J. D. Snoddy, of the 6th regiment State Militia, refused to recognize my authority to command the militia force, and ordered them to return to Kansas. The matter was promptly disposed of by placing Gen. Fishback and Col. Snoddy in close arrest for disobedience of orders and mutinous conduct in the face of the enemy. The 6th regiment was directed to choose another Colonel, which resulted in the selection of the veteran soldier, Col. James Montgomery, under whose leadership the regiment did gallant service; and no further conflict of authority occurred between myself and the Militia during the campaign; and in this connection I desire to do justice to the Militia here referred to, the 5th, 6th, and 10th regiments, by stating the fact that none others—except the two officers alluded to as placed in arrest—either officers or soldiers, evinced any other disposition than to do their whole duty, and move against the enemy in Missouri, or elsewhere that he could be found. Nor could I attach so much criminality to the acts of Brigadier General Fishback and Col. Snoddy, especially of the former, and inflict upon them the summary punishment prescribed by the rules of war—viz. death—as would have been the case, had I not known that they were the instruments selected by the Executive of Kansas and others, their superiors in the militia organization, to carry out their mischievous and disgraceful designs.

At 4 o'clock p. m. of the 16th, I was ordered to move with all my mounted men of the volunteer force to Pleasant Hill. I marched at 7 o'clock the same evening, with the 1st and 2d Brigades, comprising a total of about 2,000 men, and eight 12 pound mountain howitzers, arriving at Pleasant

Hill at 1 o'clock A. M. of the 17th. Halted until daylight, and then moved east on the Warrensburg road. After marching about ten miles, met a squad of Missouri militia and Union citizens of Warrensburg, who reported to me that on the 15th the rebel Gen. Shelby had captured the town and garrison at Sedalia, and that his advance were moving into Warrensburg, when they evacuated the place. I directed the Militia to turn back, and the command proceeded to Holden, arriving there at 11 o'clock A. M. Halting at this point, I sent Major Foster, of the 7th E. M. M., with a party of scouts and telegraph operator to Warrensburg, to make a reconnoissance. At 5 o'clock that evening Major Foster reported to me by telegraph that no enemy had been in Warrensburg, but that after the capture of Sedalia Gen. Shelby's force had rejoined Price's main command, near the Missouri river, below Waverly. Upon learning, from what I considered reliable authority, that Brigadier General Sanborn, in command of the Cavalry of Gen. Rosecrans' Department, was at or near Dunkburg, and that Gen. O. J. Smith's Division of Infantry and Artillery were within supporting distance, I sent a courier to Gen. Sanborn, with dispatches, notifying him of my position and movements, and urging upon him the propriety of uniting our forces and promptly commencing an offensive movement against Price. With the view to carry out this plan, I telegraphed to the Commanding General, requesting him to send forward to my support, on the Independence and Lexington road, the Brigade of Col. Blair, and the 16th Kansas Cavalry, and 2d Colorado Cavalry, and at 7 o'clock P. M. marched for Lexington, at which place my advance, under Col. Moonlight, arrived at 11 o'clock A. M. of the 18th. The place had been evacuated by the Federal forces for several days, and was occupied by no force of the enemy except a small party of guerrillas, several of whom were killed and captured by my advance.

Upon occupying Lexington, I obtained reliable information that the advance of Price's army, under Shelby, was at

Waverly; that Price was calling in all detachments sent out for recruiting and other purposes, and was concentrating his force to meet an expected attack from the forces of Gen. Rosecrans.

On the 19th, at 11 o'clock A. M., while I was momentarily expecting the arrival of re-enforcements I had requested to be sent to join me at Lexington, and also of receiving an answer to my dispatch to Gen. Sanborn, a courier arrived with dispatches from the General commanding, informing me that in consequence of the embarrassments thrown in his way by the governor of Kansas and others, relative to moving the Militia out of the State, no re-enforcements could be sent to me. At the same time it was reported to me that my pickets were attacked and were being driven in by the enemy, who were advancing in force in three columns. The pickets were re-enforced and instructed to resist the enemy's advance, while the command was immediately put in position in line of battle south-east of the city, facing a section of open and undulating country, with cultivated fields extending from one to two miles in our front, with the Independence road in our rear, upon which I designed to fall back whenever it became necessary.

As the enemy moved steadily up and massed his force in my front, I became well convinced that the whole of Price's army were present, and with the small force of my command I determined not to bring on a general engagement, but to develop his force and movements, and to accomplish the object of a reconnoissance. An irregular firing upon the skirmish lines of the contending forces, with occasional artillery firing, was kept up for nearly two hours, when their long range guns opened a brisk fire in my front, to which my short range howitzers could not reply with effect, and being pressed by an overwhelming force, with an attempt to flank me on the right and left, I directed the command to withdraw and fall back on the Independence road. This movement was accomplished in good order. the 11th Kansas Cavalry, under the immediate command of Colonel

Moonlight, covering the retreat in a gallant manner. The last position, occupied by the rear guard with four mountain howitzers, was held until dark, and until the small command was almost entirely enveloped by the superior numbers of the enemy, when, under cover of the night, we moved by easy marches in the direction of Independence; having in the operations of the day punished our adversary severely; but what was of greater importance, developed his position, strength, and movements, the first instance in which it had been done since he had crossed the Askansas river in his raid into Missouri.

At 9 o'clock A. M. of the 20th, I reached the crossing of the Little Blue, nine miles east of Independence, and finding a strong natural position for defense on the west side of that stream, I halted my command and camped in line of battle, sending to Independence for rations, and requesting the General commanding to send forward to me the 16th Kansas Cavalry, 2d Colorado Cavalry, and 1st Colorado Battery. In response to my application for re-enforcements, with a view of making a stand at the Little Blue, I was ordered by the General commanding to leave four squadrons at that point, as an outpost, and move with the remainder of my command to Independence, assigning as a reason that in consequence of the action of the governor of Kansas, and others of the State authorities, he was unable to move the State Militia any further into Missouri. In pursuance of these instructions I left Col. Moonlight, with the 11th Kansas Cavalry, with instructions to burn the bridge across the Blue, if the enemy advanced in force, and to make such resistance as he could until I could be notified.

Early on the morning of the 21st, I was directed to move with all the volunteer force back to the Little Blue, and just as the command had commenced to move, I received a dispatch from Col. Moonlight, informing me that the enemy were advancing in force; that he had burned the bridge, and was engaging their advance. The command was now pressed forward as rapidly as possible, but on arriving upon

the field, I found that the small force under Col. Moonlight, although making a stubborn resistance, had been forced back by superior numbers, and we had lost the strong position on the west side of the Little Blue, before alluded to, and where I had hoped to have held Price in check until Gen. Rosecrans' forces came up in his rear, had circumstances have permitted me to remain there as I had suggested the day previous. As soon as the troops could be got into position, a gallant attempt was made to push back the enemy and retake the ground we had lost, when their line was driven back nearly a mile, but the vastly superior numbers of the enemy enabling them to push forward, having flanking columns on my right and left, compelled me to fall back in the direction of Independence. The retreat was conducted in perfect order, every foot of ground being stubbornly contested, and the troops exhibiting a degree of coolness in the face of an overwhelming enemy seldom equalled.

(To be continued.)

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### COLONEL NATHAN BOONE.

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#### Biography of the Adventurous Pioneer.

THERE is one name, which, whenever it is mentioned among military men and old frontier men, is always mentioned with respect, and that name is Nathan Boone. On account of his father, Col. Daniel<sup>v</sup> Boone, of Kentucky, the fame of the son is not as wide-spread as it should be, nor is it such as he was justly entitled to. He was born in Kentucky in 1782, in the settlement made by his father; lived there until he was grown to manhood, and then moved to the territory of Missouri, where, at thirty years of age, and on the 25th of March, 1812, he was made by the president of the United States a captain of mounted rangers.

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